NCNA HEADS AND TALES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

MOTTO- TO PROMOTE AND TO SERVE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATICS

"Eleventh Issue"

October 1983

Volume III Number 4

Editor

Michael S. Turrini

Mailing Address

PO Box 4104
Vallejo, California 94590-0410

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DEADLINE FOR TWELFTH ISSUE . . . . **DECEMBER 31**

THE MINT DIRECTOR'S PRONOUNCEMENTS: Guest Editorial

Dear Members:

Most of us no doubt enjoy hearing stories about old time coin collecting, or how treasures could be found in circulation many years ago. But we do not have to wait for these stories to appear in Coin World or Numismatic News. We can instead learn a thing or two by talking to some of the old-timers who attend our local coin club meetings.

For instance, I recently asked James C. Bennie, a 73 year old member of the Diablo Numismatic Society, if he knew any interesting stories about coins.

"Back during the Depression, down in Arkansas, money was tight", he remembers. "I stopped by a filling station, and the owner was complaining. It seems he'd been given a 20¢ piece in change instead of a quarter, and he was upset about the loss of 5¢. I just said 'Here, I'll give you a quarter for it', and it was mine."

Something similar happened a few years earlier. "My Dad", Bennie remarked, "Sold a load of corn to a fellow and got a half dime in change instead of a dime. He wasn't too pleased about that! I gave him a dime for it, and everybody was happy."

Some ten years ago, I asked a similar question of a member of the Cupertino Coin Club. I have since forgotten his name, but he remembered looking through a box of 20¢ pieces at a coin shop several decades ago. The cost was 75¢ apiece. Studying them carefully, he came across the greatest rarity, the 1876CC (only 6 known today). Nonchalantly, he told the dealer that he wanted the whole box. The dealer, no dummy himself, wanted to look through them first, since he had not yet had a chance to sort them. Spotting the 1876CC, the dealer held it up and said, "You don't get this one. It's worth a hundred bucks!"

Just stop and talk to some of the older folks at your next meeting, and you might hear about how cheap 3¢ pieces were once or what it was like to have gold coins in circulation. Stories like these, if left untold, will someday be lost, and our hobby will end up the poorer for it.

George Tyson
NCNA Second Vice-President

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THE MINTMASTER'S QUILL: An Editor's Prerogative

My Friends:

This Eleventh Issue arrives later than I had originally planned. A combination of my obligation as my junior high school's yearbook advisor and duties in the several organizations that I am active with coupled with a severe sinus head cold have delayed getting NCNA Heads and Tales written, printed, and mailed.

What sparks my editorial thoughts this Issue is the need for speakers at coin clubs and a solution to that perennial concern.

Recently, for the Fairfield Coin Club of which I am Vice-President and the Vallejo Stamp Club of which I am President, I invited two gentlemen respectively to talk before both these groups. Neither had ever had a speaking engagement or been invited to speak on any subject before any group. However, both readily accepted my invitation and the challenge of preparing and presenting a speech.

Both were candid in their opening remarks as to their inexperience. Both were fresh and open in their presentations. Both gave their audiences an excellent, enthusiastic, and educating talk, and both earned the compliment of their fellow hobbyists.

It is my reflection in inviting and listening to these gentlemen that it did not matter what their experience or expertise was as compared to those who speak regularly. Rather, it was refreshing to hear someone who has not spoke X number of times before on the same topic.

Thus, for coin clubs needing speakers, look about your own members, and members in support of your club accept the request to talk. Our hobby advances when someone contributes for others his or her knowledge or experience.

True, it is not easy to prepare a speech topic and not any easier to present it. However, my reflection with these two gentlemen convinces me that there is in our hobby, within our coin clubs, a large pool of individuals--not experts nor leading figures or authors or owners of great rarities--who are just common everyday people who do have something to share with their fellow hobbyists. All that is need is to ask and to accept.

Finally, do not accept your member speaker to be an orator; do accept him or her to give of themselves so that both he or she and you will learn and enjoy together our mutual hobby of numismatics.

Numismatically Yours,

Michael S. Turrini

Michael S. Turrini
Editor

GOLD MINER DIGGINGS: NCNA News and Happenings

NCNA Coin Club List

The Seventh Issue, September 1983, of the NCNA's service, the 'Coin Club List', is enclosed. Again, as both your Editor and O.L. Wallis, who is responsible for this List, have repeatedly implored, coin clubs are requested to regularly contact Mr. Wallis with their latest club particulars.

Copies of this List are free and available for distribution. Just contact Mr. Wallis.

NCNA Board of Directors Meeting

The last 1983 quarterly meeting for the NCNA Board of Directors will be November 27th, Sunday, at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Geary and Van Ness, San Francisco, starting at 1:30pm.

All NCNA Club Members are invited and encouraged to send a voting delegate to participate and to contribute to NCNA's management.

1983 NCNA Officer Election

Although your Editor has not received the official results and since there was no opposition for any candidate, the following were surely elected:

George Tyson, President
Denis N. Hooker, First Vice-President
Michael S. Turrini, Second Vice-President
Brian Kestner, Secretary
Edward Sins, Treasurer

These officers will be installed and begin their duties at the November Board of Directors meeting.

NCNA Coin Show Schedule

A long time service of NCNA, the latest 'Coin Show Schedule' is enclosed. This is a most helpful aid for both coin clubs and active collectors. Please inform both Edward Sins, who compiles and prints this Schedule, and your Editor of your club's coin show details. Do this well-in-advance of the date. Do not wait until the last minute.

September Show and Convention

The recent annual NCNA Show and Convention is now history. As usual, its biggest plus was the variety and size of the Bourse.

In addition, a fine Educational Forum of three speakers was also included in this year's Show and Convention: O.L. Wallis, Walter Breen, and your Editor.

Walter Breen spoke on 'California Fractional Gold' at the Friday Forum, and both O.L. Wallis and your Editor spoke at the Saturday Forum; their topics respectively were: "The Lure and Lore of Tokens, Medals, and Exonumia' and 'Canadian Commemorative Dollars'. All speakers showed slides and received plaques for their presentations. The Educational Forum was coordinated by Ozzie Stout.

Krause Publications was represented at this recent Show and Convention, and it donated four books to the Saturday Forum to use as Door Prizes for those attending. The winners were:

Richard Walcott
Clifford Bloom
Raisa Titoff
O.L. Wallis

The Exhibit winners, who claimed some of the finest trophies, were:

Best of Show

William D. Henry--"Four Ancient Greek City-State Coins and their Symbols"

First Place

David W. Lange--"The Liberty Seated Half Dollar Story"

O.L. Wallis--"Medallic Portraits"

Second Place

Raisa Titoff--"The First Ladies of the United States"

Victor Titoff--"States of the Union"

Third Place

Nancy Stanley--"Woods of Hawaii"

Edward Sins--"Symbols on Our Dollar"

Barbara Jean Goodwin--"Gaming Tokens--Coinage from the Back Room"

First Place Junior

Penny Stanley--"Lafayette Dollar"

Second Place Junior

David Arietta--"Kennedy Type Half"

BRANCH MINT REPORTS: Club Happenings

Have been receiving bulletins, newsletters, or news releases from these Coin Clubs:

Fairfield Coin Club
San Jose Coin Club
Gateway Coin Club
Liberty Numismatic Society
Delta Coin Club
San Francisco Coin Club
Fremont Coin Club
Diablo Numismatic Society
Vallejo Numismatic Society
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Napa Valley Coin Club
Cupertino Coin Club
Peninsula Coin Club
Livermore Valley Coin Club
Santa Cruz Coin Club
World Round Silver Bar Club

Fairfield Coin Club Has been active: July 24th meeting with Bingo and again at the September 28th meeting. The August 24th meeting had VINCE KOHLBECKER talking on his interest, 'Large Size Currency'. His excellent talk was supplemented with a display of old large size bills from his own collection.

San Jose Coin Club Has had a series of good programs: RON MILLER on 'Coin Grading' at the July 20th meeting, ED SINS on 'United States Half Cent Types and Curiousities' at the August 17th meeting, and the traditional and annual Bourse Night at the September 21st meeting. SJCC's annual Bourse Night is intended "to allow non-dealers an opportunity to dispose of duplicate, unwanted or upgraded coins as a means of raising money for their next purchases". SJCC and the Cupertino Coin Club held a joint picnic on September 25th at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Cupertino at which seventy-three members attended. At the August 17th meeting, MARSHALL MYERS exhibited two Kennedy medals which he "indicated that the medals he displayed were salvaged from his mother's garbage can". As the SJCC newsletter Editor noted, "Marshall, we have heard about people collecting junk and finding worthwhile coins in 'junk boxes' but, the garbage can . . ?"

Gateway Coin Club Had JOHN HOFFMAN learn to use Kingsford charcoal next time he plans to barbeque hamburgers for hungry club members to eat. According to reports, this was the only problem at the GCC's Club Picnic last July 21st. The August 4th meeting had the slide program "The History and Collecting of Checks"; the GCC Newsletter Editor commented that this slide program "may have been the most successful slide show to date". Other Coin Clubs should check on this slide program. The August 18th meeting had members bring and give brief talks on their numis-

matic books. The GCC held a Theme Night at its September 1st meeting with the theme of Famous People. All members were invited to bring something numismatic that was connected to the stated theme, and points were awarded for the number of items and their condition, information learned, and the appearance of the display. HENRY BROCKMAN won First Place with his effort on the 'The Duke', John Wayne. The September 15th meeting had a Coin Quiz with the right answers given after taking the Quiz.

Liberty Numismatic Society Has also been busy with three speakers: JIM ROSEN at the August 2nd meeting on United States Commemoratives, ART ELWING at the September 6th meeting on Coins of Sweden, and BRIAN KESTNER at the October 4th meeting on Regular Issue United States Gold Coins.

Delta Coin Club Reports that its 19th Annual Coin Show will be this October 15th and 16th, Eagle's Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street (one block south of West Lane Bowl), Stockton. The DCC's 1984 Coin Show is scheduled for October 27th and 28th. The Club Picnic last July 8th was reported a big success: the guessing game of pennies in a jar was won by ILEEN LINSKOG; RACHEL FLANDERS and HOWARD HUGHES were other lucky winners, and there was so much food and fun that MICHAEL SERPA, who attended as a guest, left a new DCC member. Due to a new job position, KATHY and RAY HIRNING have relocated to Colorado, and CHUCK and JOAN LACKYARD are filling in as Corresponding Secretary and Publicity.

San Francisco Coin Club Heard long-time SFCC member MIKE STANLEY speak and review at the July 26th meeting on the recent 61,000 mile cruise of the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Enterprise on which Mr. STANLEY has now completed six cruises. ROSE HUNTINGTON displayed and discussed the 1896 Educational Series Currency Issue at the August 23rd meeting. The current big event for the SFCC is its October 15th 23rd Anniversary Dinner at the Irish Cultural Center. Two Cents Worth Editor O.L. WALLIS reviewed a recently published book, "When the Eyes Faded" written by former SFCC President ROY ADAMS. Mr. ADAMS' inspirational book reflected on his trials and toil to combat his wife, PHYLLIS, blindness and his eventual success utilizing revolutionary eye exercises that he himself developed which restored partial sight. Inspiring, hopeful, and intriguing reading of human suffering and achievement.

Fremont Coin Club Your Editor attended the August 7th FCC Coin Show and appreciated the courtesy and friendliness extended by the FCC officers and members; your Editor had been invited to serve as an Exhibit Judge which was a rewarding and educating experience. At the July 26th meeting, JEFF GREEN, Junior, and ROGER LYLES, Adult, won the Coin Grading Quiz. The August 23rd meeting had FCC President GLENNA HAVERCROFT talk on 'Women on United States Coinage'. The September 13th and 27th meeting were Special Exhibit Nights; one meeting reserved respectively for the juniors and the adult members.

Diablo Numismatic Society Showed the slide program 'Coins of Special Significance' at the July 21st meeting, plus your Editor displayed an example of the famous Yap Island Stone Money; the particular piece on loan from the late WALTER G. GERTH Collection. The big event for the DNS will be its 1983 Coin Show on December 4th, Sunday, hours 10 to 4, at the Pleasant Hill Recreation Hill Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. This 21st Annual DNS Coin Show will have twenty-three dealers, an all United States gold raffle, and six hourly prizes. A new feature in the DNS' Diablo Die-Break is the 'DNS Personality Profile'; to date, JAMES BENNIE and SAM RUMPH have been honored.

Vallejo Numismatic Society Had O.L. WALLIS review Competitive Exhibiting at its August 3rd meeting with this program to be followed by a Special Exhibit Night at the December 7th meeting. The October 5th meeting was a White Elephant Auction which was the first time the VNS has done such a program; it had sixty-three lots ranging from an old manual calculator to Kenyan Tribal Art. VNS President CHUCK TRAVIS has appointed the 1984 Vallejo Coin Show Coordinators: MICHAEL S. TURRINI, General and Bourse, OZZIE STOUT, Educational Forum, O.L. WALLIS, Exhibits, and MAXINE HOPPERSTAD, Raffle. The 1984 12th Annual Vallejo Coin Show will be April 29th, Sunday, 10:30 to 5:00, in Dan Foley Cultural Center, Dan Foley Park, Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, with Bourse, Exhibits, Educational Forum, Half-Hour Drawings, all United States Gold Raffle, Free Woods, and more. In addition, the Western States Token Society, WESTS, will hold one of its meetings at and during the Vallejo Coin Show.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Recently heard former PCNS President O.L. WALLIS at its August 31st meeting on 'A Numismatic Trip Through Mexico', and had its annual White Elephant Auction at the September 28th meeting. PCNS Treasurer DON T. THRALL has himself been active: speaking before the Redwood Empire Coin Club and writing a recently published Calcoin News article on Telephone Franks. STEPHEN HUSTON, in an article supplementing the August PCNS Bulletin, reports that he obtained, and since sold, the only two known and verifiable examples of the 1948 San Francisco Mint restriking of the 1898 Mexican silver Peso, both pieces formerly of the late Dr. ALBERTO PRADEAU Collection. A modern numismatic adventure and find. On a lighter note, PCNS Bulletin Editor LARRY REPPETEAU noted that he rides the "MUNI'S answer to carnival thrill rides--the 'N' Line". Your Editor himself commuted for sometime on the MUNI'S answer to express service--'M' Line.

Napa Valley Coin Club Reports that its annual Coin Show will be on March 25th at the Town and Country Fairgrounds, 575 Third, Napa. For information, contact "BOB BINGHAM, 1648 Yellowstone, Napa, 94558".

Cupertino Coin Club Heard BILL SCHWARTZ talk on the 'Origin of Coinage' at its August 5th meeting. CCC Coin Press Editor AL LO

commented on Mr. SCHWARTZ's talk, "It is evident that you are in love with your coins!!" YVONNE VORBERG spoke on 'Coin Displays and Exhibits' at the September 9th meeting. The CCC has developed an extensive Youth Numismatics Program which is set up "to encourage youth participation and service to the Cupertino Coin Club, while at the same time increasing knowledge and enjoyment of our hobby". This program which is a competition with awards will run from September 1983 through May 1984 with points awarded in varying amounts and credited to CCC Junior Members who actively participate in a variety of activities involving the Coin Club and the numismatic hobby. A nice idea for any Coin Club.

Peninsula Coin Club Meets on the Third Monday of each month in the upstairs Meeting Room of Eureka Federal Savings, Second and Main Streets, Los Altos.

Livermore Valley Coin Club Writes that it will hold its 19th Annual Coin Show, February 19, 1984, Sunday, at the Elks Hall, 940 Larkspur Drive, Livermore. For information, contact "HOWARD KOSANKE, PO Box 610, Livermore, 94550".

Santa Cruz Coin Club Reports that its 18th Annual Coin Show will be November 6th, 10:00 to 5:00, at the CPDES Hall, 216 Evergreen (next to Harvey West Park), Santa Cruz. There will be special half-hour drawings for silver dollars, and admission is free. As has been true in past years, the SCCC has issued a special historic commemorative medal; this year's honors Ebert's Quality Store. Bourse Chairman is: "ERNEST A. STEINER, PO Box 991, Santa Cruz, 95061".

World Round Silver Bar Club Is a newly formed group dedicated to collecting one ounce silver rounds. Its first President is LUCKY WILLIAMS. This Club meets the second Wednesday evening of each month at Smorga Bob's, 1720 Texas, Fairfield. More details on this newly organized Club may be obtained through your Editor.

POSTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Speakers for Coin Clubs

Your Editor does have some names of potential speakers, including himself, that coin clubs are welcome to inquiry about.

The latest addition is a gentleman who has prepared there different talks on Ancient Greek Coinage. His topics are:

"The History and Coinage of Ancient Athens"

"Philip II of Macedonia and His Coinages"

"Alexander III: His Travels, Life-Styles, and Coinages"

Continued Next Page

From Page 9:

Your Editor has three talks:

"Canadian Commemorative Dollars" (with slide program)

"Commemorative Coinage Vetoes"

"Newfoundland: Dollar and 49th State"

There are others also. Again, this is not an official function of NCNA, but a simple helpful aid provided by your Editor who acts as go-between the speakers and coin clubs.

Coin clubs are encouraged to contact your Editor with speaker requests, and NCNA members interested in being potential speakers are equally encouraged to contact your Editor.

Michael S. Turrini, Editor
NCNA Heads and Tales
PO Box 4104
Vallejo, California 94590-0410

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